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# C.I.A. Statement Denies Beirut Bombing Link

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WASHINGTON, May 13 — The Central Intelligence Agency issued a statement today saying that it had not had advance knowledge of a car bombing in a Beirut suburb last March that killed more than 80 people.

Intelligence sources also said that the C.I.A. had no connection to a Lebanese counterterrorism group that reportedly hired the bombers.

But that account was disputed by some Administration and Congressional officials who said that the agency was working with the group at the time of the bombing.

One Administration official indicated that the C.I.A. and intelligence sources were trying to discount the agency's relationship to the counterterrorism unit out of fear that terrorists might retaliate against United States operations in Lebanon.

In a three-sentence statement, the C.I.A. said it "never conducted any training of Lebanese security forces related to the events" first described Sunday by The Washington Post.

## Advance Knowledge Disclaimed

"It also had no foreknowledge of the Lebanese counterterrorist action mentioned in the article," the statement said. The Post account quoted an un-

identified Lebanese intelligence source as having said that the C.I.A. knew that the bombing was being planned. It also quoted United States sources as having denied any advance knowledge of the bombing.

The Post said President Reagan had given approval for the C.I.A. to train Lebanese units to strike Middle East terrorists.

Members of one of those groups, without the agency's authorization, hired others to plant a car bomb March 8 outside the home of a Shiite leader thought to be responsible for terrorist attacks on American installations, according to Congressional and Administration sources.

Responding to complaints from members of Congress that they had not been fully informed about the operation, the C.I.A. statement also said that the agency "scrupulously observes" its commitment to keep Congressional oversight committees informed.

## C.I.A. Documents Are Sought

On Capitol Hill, two members of the House Judiciary Committee introduced a resolution directing the C.I.A. to provide documents about its counterterrorism activities in the Middle East.

"In an area as volatile as the Middle East, we don't need to set loose foreign proxies to participate in ill-conceived operations," said Representative Patricia Schroeder, Democrat of Colorado and one of the resolution's sponsors.

The C.I.A. declined to discuss details of the bombing beyond the written statement. A spokesman also declined to answer questions about reports of the agency's involvement with counterterrorism efforts in Lebanon.

But in interviews, intelligence sources denied reports that the C.I.A. had been working with the Lebanese counterterrorism unit.

"What we are saying is that the C.I.A. had no direct or indirect link

with the security forces which hired the terrorists to carry out the car bombing," one source said. "Any implication that we were working with a security force that in turn hired the outside terrorist force is not true."

Another intelligence official stressed that, while there may have been "informational" links with the group that hired the bombers, the C.I.A. had not known of the assassination plan. More than 200 people were injured in the blast outside the home of the Shiite leader, Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah.

But Administration and Congressional sources continued today to confirm earlier reports that the C.I.A. had worked with the Lebanese group. They also said that the bombing had prompted the Administration to draw back from efforts to use Lebanese groups to strike against terrorists.

The White House and the State Department have declined to discuss the substance of the reports.

On Capitol Hill, Senator David F. Durenberger, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said that an investigation of C.I.A. counterterrorism policy had long been scheduled for later this year.

Through a spokesman, he seemed to question the need for an immediate investigation. The vice chairman of the committee, Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, has said that he has already begun a series of inquiries.

Senator Leahy has also said that he feels the committee has not been fully informed about sensitive operations.

But Senator Barry Goldwater, the Arizona Republican who was chairman of the committee until this year, said in an interview that he had been adequately informed.